



The Ames Intelligencer

Published by Ames Heritage Association, Inc.

Winter 1993-94

Sunday, February 27, 2:00 p.m.

1994 Annual Meeting Program:

"IMMIGRANT ETHNIC ARCHITECTURE AND ETHNICITY IN IOWA"

Ames Public Library Auditorium

Darrell Henning, director of the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, IA., will present the program entitled "Immigrant Ethnic Architecture and Ethnicity in Iowa." Refreshments will be served following the program. A brief review of 1993 activities will be presented and new board members will be elected. We encourage members and the interested public to join us for a fun and informative afternoon.

FALL OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS

"Who is the lady in the black cape and funny hat?" This was the question of the day on Oct. 10 at the Bauge Log House site as storyteller Betty Husted wandered through the house and yard. Over 130 visitors attended the open house event at McFarland Park.

Attired in authentic dress, Betty captivated the crowd with her stories while portraying Synneva Bauge. Synneva came with her husband, Nils, to live in the house in the mid-1860's.

Weaving together details of daily life from the 1800's, Betty helped visitors grasp the struggles and joys encountered by pioneer families as they moved west and settled the mid-western prairies. Visitors also enjoyed a rug braiding demonstration by Linda Motzko Svec of Cummings. The Bauge family used braided rugs in the house made by reusing wool fabrics from coats and other garments.

Tours of the home were conducted and refreshments of molasses cookies, ginger-molasses cake, kringla and cider completed the event. Turn of the century recipes were displayed and visitors learned about cooking during the 1890-1910 time period.



Betty Husted, storyteller, attired in authentic dress, entertained visitors.

BAUGE HOUSE UPDATE

The Ames Heritage Association will focus on two activities with the ongoing Bauge Family Log House Project in the upcoming year. On the restoration front, the goal is to completely finish the lean-to section of the house. The lean-to area on the north side of the house contains the kitchen and a small bedroom which was used by the girls in the family.

This restoration project has seven components including installation of pine floor boards, construction of a partition wall between the kitchen and bedroom, installation of beaded ceiling boards, adding window and door trim, applying stones over the concrete foundation to achieve an historically appropriate appear-

ance for the foundation, and constructing a brick chimney for the kitchen cook stove.

The second activity involves the development of educational programming for the site. The Ames Friday noon Kiwanis Club has donated \$300 for this program development.

Betty Husted of West Des Moines, whose extensive research on the Bauge family and homesteading in Iowa resulted in a memorable program for the October open house, has agreed to continue her fine work. In-depth lessons will be assembled for use by visiting groups of all ages. Sharon Wirth, Kathy Svec and Cele Burnett will work with Betty. We look forward to the unfolding of this exciting project.



The making of braided rugs was demonstrated by Linda Motzko Svec at the October 10 event. She is shown here inside the Bauge House with Elden Bauge. The log walls of the house can be seen in the background.

AMES' HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

Exclusively at the Octagon Shop are Ames history packets for \$11. Included at this bargain price are 8 historical postcards with pictures from Farwell Brown's collection, 2 large posters featuring 1907 views of Downtown and Iowa State and the book, *Faces of Our Founders*. Perfect gift for Ames and former-Ames folks!

Recently published Ames—*The Early Years in Word and Picture, From Marsh to Modern City* by Farwell T. Brown is a must for anyone interested in Ames' history. The book is available in soft or hard cover at the following locations: Walden Books, North Grand Mall; University Bookstore, Memorial Union; Travel Genie, Lincoln Plaza; Big Table Books, Main Street; and Ames Stationers, Main Street.

Recent Donations

—A stoneware crock for use in the Bauge Log Home was donated by Mrs. William Bliss

—Books printed in 1837 and 1886 were donated by Harry Svec

—A comforter from ca1915 donated by Mrs. Ada Garn

Hoggatt Break-In

In November, a break-in occurred at Meeker School and vandals also entered Hoggatt School. Glass on pictures was broken and several small items were missing, including a 39 star flag. Damage to the front door will be covered by insurance. The Heritage Association maintains responsibility for the contents of Hoggatt School, and the Ames School District for the structure.

**IF WE DON'T ACT NOW TO SAVE
OUR NATION'S HISTORIC PLACES,
THE PROBLEM WILL JUST DISAPPEAR...**



❖ FACES AND PLACES ❖

Editor's note: With this issue begins a new feature called Faces and Places. In this section you will find fun and fascinating facts about places, people, and names you've heard of and how they relate to the early days of our community. Let's start at the beginning, with the name of Ames.

OAKES AMES

Industrialist Oakes Ames was born in Easton, Massachusetts on January 10, 1804. He was involved with the successful manufacture of picks and shovels which supplied the gold rush of 1849. He never set foot in his namesake, Ames, IA.

In 1863 he was elected to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. Congress, serving until 1873. Following the Civil War, Ames was one of many who were interested in railroad expansion. In 1863 he met John I. Blair who was involved with building the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad in Iowa. It was Blair who located a railroad stop between the Skunk River and Squaw Creek and named it "Ames" after his friend, Oakes Ames.

Ames became involved in financial legislation supporting railroad construction. He also purchased stock in Credit Mobilier, a Pennsylvania corporation investing in railroads, and made it available to his colleagues in Congress. His methods led to criticism and he was charged with involvement in a bribery scheme involving the Credit Mobilier Corporation. The House of Representatives censured him and he withdrew from public life in 1873, maintaining he had done nothing wrong. He died on May 8, 1873. In 1876 the case was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Family members contend Ames was fully exonerated by the court's ruling.

Oakes Ames often used his wealth to assist others. He endowed a chair in English at Grinnell College. In Ames, he presented a bell to the Congregational Church in 1867. The bell can still be found in the church at the corner of Kellogg and 6th streets.



Oakes Ames

EMMA McCARTHY LEE PARK

Many of you have enjoyed playing tennis or strolling through the beautiful woods which are a part of Emma McCarthy Lee Park in west Ames just off Ross Road.

Emma McCarthy Lee Park is named in memory of the wife of C.G. Lee, an early Ames lawyer, former judge and real estate developer. Emma was born in 1865 on a farm south of Iowa State, roughly in the area of Ash Avenue near the Towers Dormitories. She was one of nine children of pioneers Dan and Mary Ann McCarthy. Dan came to the area in 1854 to run a sawmill. Emma attended Ames public schools, and started at Iowa Agricultural College in 1881 before she finished high school. She attended for 1 1/2 years, quit to teach school, stopped teaching to work at the Post Office and in 1892 took a job as Assistant Librarian at Iowa State. She met C.G. Lee while he was attending college at I.A.C., and the two married in 1896 after he completed Drake Law School. She and C.G. lived at 1008 Burnett. Emma passed away in 1951.

McCARTHY ROAD

McCarthy Road is located off Beach Avenue in the area of the original McCarthy family farm. McCarthy Road is named after Dan McCarthy, Emma's father. After his arrival in 1854 to start a sawmill, he also worked as a carpenter, all the while studying to be a lawyer. He married the daughter of a sawmill patron, Mary Ann Ross, in 1858. Dan was admitted to the bar in 1870, and practiced law for 40 years with John Stevens, George Underwood, and lastly with his son-in-law, C.G. Lee. In 1897 the McCarthy family moved from the farmhouse which still stands (though remodeled) at 930 Ash Avenue, to 511 Grand which now houses Shoppes on Grand. Dan was an early and ardent supporter of the college, and it is said he set the surveying stake for the first two buildings. He was born in 1833 and died in 1921 at the ripe old age of 88.



Emma McCarthy Lee

THE MUSEUM DREAM

The Association's long-time museum dream may be closer to reality. An ad-hoc study committee of the Heritage Association and the Ames Foundation has been appointed to investigate possible locations and sources of funding for an Ames Historical Museum. Anyone interested in working to make the museum dream a reality or making donations should contact Kathy Svec at 232-4877 or Lois Vohs at 232-4294.

Meanwhile, secure temperature-regulated storage has been located for Ames Heritage Association items. Thanks to Marv Walters for his generous offer accommodating our needs. There is great concern that items relating to Ames history are being discarded or given to organizations outside of Ames because no community museum exists in Ames. Securing a storage location will allow us to accept donations while working toward realization of a museum. Once the documents and historical materials are brought together at the storage location they will be inventoried and catalogued.

Iowa Sesquicentennial

Iowa Sesquicentennial Plans are being made for a 1996 celebration as Iowa commemorates 150 years of statehood. The Iowa Sesquicentennial Commission is chaired by former Governor Robert D. Ray. Each county is setting up a sesquicentennial commission to plan local participation. The Ames City Council recently appointed Terry Adams to represent Ames on the county commission, chaired by Susan Larson. Kathy Svec will represent Story County.

Sesquicentennial activities will be supported by the proceeds from the sale of special sesquicentennial license plates. A percentage of the fees from these plates is given to the county commission to support county activities. When purchasing new license plates or renewing your current ones, we encourage you to ask about this special opportunity to support an important heritage-related event.

Association Officers

President Kathy Svec
603 Grand Avenue, Ames
232-4877

Vice-President Don Faas
4419 Ross Road, Ames
232-1613

Secretary Nancy Osborn
312 Hayward, Ames
292-8531

Treasurer Bill LaGrange
2800 Torrey Pines Road, Ames
292-4131

Editor Sharon Wirth
803 Burnett, Ames
233-2415

Membership Records
Nancy Ezarski
714 Douglas, Ames
232-1002

The Ames Heritage Association, a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization is dedicated to promoting interest in local and state history through educational publications, programs and displays. The board meets the third Monday of each month. Interested persons are always welcome.

The Ames Intelligencer, named after an early community newspaper, is published three times a year. Questions may be directed to Sharon Wirth, editor (phone 233-2415).

The Ames Intelligencer
Ames Heritage Association
P.O. Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 122
Ames, Iowa 50010